

# California **GARDEN**

MAY-JUNE 1979

Volume 70, Number 3  
Seventy-five Cents



*Bauhinia variegata*

Helen Ayres

## FLORAL EVENTS

### Annual Meeting

#### Covered-Dish Dinner—Installation of Officers

A delightful evening with  
Mr. Charles B. Ledgerwood  
of Carlsbad, California  
with his musical show in time-lapse photography  
"Meet the Amaryllis"

Tuesday, June 19, 1979, 6:30 p.m.  
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park  
San Diego, California

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and

#### Magazine Sales Table

Southern California Exposition  
(garden section)  
Del Mar, California

June 21 thru July 4, 1979  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily

## SHOWS

May 12 & 13	GREEN THUMB SHOW at Wild Animal Park Sponsored by the San Diego Bromeliad Society
May 13	San Diego Epiphyllum Society Show "ORIENTAL FANTASIES", Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
May 19 & 20	GREEN THUMB SHOW at Wild Animal Park Sponsored by the San Diego Bromeliad Society
May 19 & 20	SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL SOCIETY SHOW, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, San Diego, Calif., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
May 26 & 27	San Diego Botanical Society Show, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Patio "A", Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 2 & 3	San Diego Botanical Society Show, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 9 & 10	GREEN THUMB SHOW at Wild Animal Park Sponsored by the San Diego Bromeliad Society
June 16 & 17	SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL SOCIETY SHOW, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, San Diego, Calif., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 23 & 24	IKENOBO SHOW, Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Kanzan, San Diego, Calif., 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
June 24	SouthWestern Hemerocallis Society's THIRD ANNUAL SHOW, Casa del Prado, Sculpture Court, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif., Noon to 5:00 p.m., Free



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# California GARDEN

Library of Congress No. ISSN 0008-1116

Published Since 1909

by

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

and

GARDEN CENTER

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101

Mon. through Fri. 10:00 to 3:00

232-5762

MAY - JUNE 1979

Volume 70

Number 3

Cover: Drawing by Helen Ayres. *Bauhinia variegata* commonly called orchid tree is blooming now in southern California.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 084-020) is a non-profit publication of the San Diego Floral Association, a non-profit horticultural organization. The magazine is published bi-monthly for \$4.00 per year; \$7.50 for two years, by San Diego Floral Association, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101. Manuscripts are invited. Manuscripts and illustrations submitted will be handled carefully, but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. All opinion expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the San Diego Floral Association. "Hortus Third" is the authority for all botanical names used in this magazine. Entered as second-class matter, December 8, 1910, at the Post Office of San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: SEND FORM 3579 ADDRESS CHANGES TO:  
CALIFORNIA GARDEN, CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

*San Diego Floral Association*  
and  
*Garden Center*

Casa del Prado, Balboa Park  
San Diego, California 92101  
(714) 232-5762

Mon-Fri 10:00 to 3:00

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# Flowering Trees for Spring and Summer Color

by Samuel Ayres, Jr., M.D.

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Right: *Tabebuia chrysotricha*

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S unique Mediterranean-type climate affords an opportunity to grow spectacular flowering trees and shrubs which rival the color and beauty which travelers associate with the tropics.

In two previous communications I discussed some of the less familiar trees and shrubs which enrich our landscape with colorful flowers during the fall and winter months (*California Garden*, Volume 68, page 148, September-October 1977) and also some of the newer, smaller-growing eucalyptus species which produce flowers of many colors at intervals during the year. (*California Garden*, Volume 69, page 36, March-April 1978) The present discussion will deal primarily with some of the newer, showy species of flowering trees which bloom during the spring and summer.

To most residents of the United States, the mention of flowering trees calls to mind the cultivated varieties of flowering fruit trees, mostly from Asia, which tolerate low temperatures; also varieties of magnolia, redbud and dogwood. Many of these also perform well in Southern California, but the color and variety can be greatly extended by planting trees

which cannot be grown anywhere else in the United States.

The *Erythrina* (coral tree) genus includes many species, some with coral flowers, others with brilliant flowers in shades of red and orange, reminiscent of the royal poinciana which is too tropical to be grown in California. Several years ago, through the efforts of Los Angeles Beautiful, the *Erythrina* was named Los Angeles' official city tree, without designating any one species, because of the varying microclimates of the city.

*Erythrina caffra* from South Africa is one of the most spectacular coral trees, blooming in early spring, attaining a large size, with clusters of scarlet, wide-open, pea-like flowers. It performs best in the coastal areas. *E. coralloides* and *E. americana* from Mexico are smaller trees with clusters of red torch-like flowers. It tolerates occasional temperatures as low as 27°. *E. falcata*, a recent introduction, is a tall, upright, evergreen tree with hanging clusters of red, sickle-shaped flowers. *E. crista-galli* from Brazil is one of the better-known species. It bears spectacular red to



pink flowers in the spring and occasionally repeats in the summer or fall. It dies back to its main branches in the winter and requires pruning. Space does not permit a full listing of all the old and some of the newer introductions of this valuable genus.

*Tabebuia chrysotricha* and *T. impetiginosa* are two medium-sized trees from Brazil, blooming in spring with large trumpet-shaped flowers, golden yellow and pink, respectively. *T. avellanedae* var. *paulensis* is a dwarf version of *T. impetiginosa* which blooms several times a year with smaller pink trumpets. These tabebuias tolerate temperatures to 24°.

*Melaleuca linariifolia* is one of the bottle-brushes from Australia. It is tall, straight and evergreen, with paper-like bark resembling birch-bark, and blooms in early summer with flowers composed of white stamens, branched like snow-flakes, which gave rise to its Australian common name, show-in-summer. A planting of these trees may be seen along the center of Foothill Boulevard and in front of the library in La Canada Flintridge, California.

*Bauhinia variegata* is indigenous to China and India. It blooms in the spring with orchid-shaped flowers which gave rise to the common name of orchid tree. It is of medium size and is well-adapted for use as a street tree, as demonstrated in a spectacular planting on Walnut Street in Whittier, California. Flower color varies from orchid-pink to purple, white and a recently introduced red. It is partly deciduous and tolerates temperatures to 25°.

*Jacaranda mimosifolia* is probably one of the best known and most spectacular of Southern California's flowering trees. A native of Brazil and Argentina, it blooms during the spring and occasionally in the summer, with masses of tubular violet-blue flowers covering fern-like foliage. A white form was recently introduced by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. The jacaranda is the official city tree of Pretoria, South Africa, where over 50,000 specimens in bloom create an unforgettable sight during the annual week-long Jacaranda Festival. Two new species have recently been grown in California, and there are many more species awaiting introduction. Jacaranda is well-suited for planting along streets and in parks, and for landscaping homes and public buildings.

*Markhamia hildebrandtii* from East Africa is somewhat frost-tender, but occasional light frost does not harm it. Our specimen in La Canada Flintridge

was frozen back heavily in the 1949 freeze when for three consecutive nights temperatures dropped to 27°, with 6 inches of snow, but it recovered rapidly and is now growing with multiple trunks to a height of approximately 25 feet. It blooms intermittently through the summer with masses of large golden-yellow trumpet-shaped flowers.

*Brachychiton acerifolius* and *B. discolor*, from Australia, are two tall, handsome, nearly evergreen trees, reaching a height of 50 to 60 feet, and blooming is early summer. They drop their maple-like leaves briefly when the flowers appear, small, red, and tubular in the former, and larger, two-tone pink and cup-shaped with pointed petals, in the latter. Either species would make a good substitute for a pine, if a pyramid-shaped evergreen tree were desired. They perform best in the inland areas. Both trees tolerate minimum temperatures of 25°.

*Schotia brachypetala* or tree fuchsia, from South Africa, is a recent introduction and is not yet widely available. It grows to a height of about 30 feet, and drops its leaves briefly when the small, red, fuchsia-shaped blossoms appear in the spring. It will tolerate temperatures down to 30°.

*Polygala apopetala* was introduced from Baja California many years ago, but is rarely seen. It is a shrubby evergreen tree, attaining a height of 15 to 20 feet. Our specimen in La Canada Flintridge has tolerated temperatures as low as 30° or slightly less, on several occasions, and blooms at intervals through the summer with sprays of small purple pea-like flowers.

*Castanospermum australe*, the Moreton Bay chestnut from Australia, is a member of the pea family, but produces large ornamental chestnut-like pods in the autumn. It has beautiful evergreen foliage and late summer blooms with clusters of flowers in mixed shades of red, orange, and yellow, performing best in warmer locations where it is hardy to 25°. It is of medium size.

*Calodendrum capense*, or cape chestnut, from South Africa, is also not a true chestnut. It is nearly evergreen, spreading and of medium size, blooming in the spring with clusters of pink lily-like flowers. It performs better near the coastal areas. A very large, old specimen puts on a beautiful display in Elysian Park, Los Angeles. Two specimens in La Canada Flintridge are performing well.

*Lagerstroemia indica*, or crape myrtle, from China, is a small, erect, deciduous tree, best suited



for warmer inland areas where it will tolerate a minimum temperature of 10°. It tends to develop mildew near the coast. It blooms in late summer with a profusion of flowers ranging in color from pink to white, red, or lavender. After the flowers, the trees put on a colorful display of fall foliage.

This verbal description gives an inadequate impression of the beauty of spring- and summer-flowering trees available for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike in the unique Mediterranean-type climate of Southern California.

Lack of space necessitates the omission of many other equally beautiful species. A recent book, entitled "Color for the Landscape," edited by Dr. Mildred E. Mathias, Emeritus Professor of Botany at the University of California, Los Angeles, and illustrated in full color by the late Ralph D. Cornell, FASLA, will supply additional authentic information on flowering plants for subtropical climates. □

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*Above: Brachyhiton discolor*

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*Dr. Ayres, a practicing physician, and his wife Helen, collect and propagate flowering trees and shrubs. He is also active in the California Arboretum Foundation in Arcadia, California.*

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*Reprint photos by Asael Arce from "Color for the Landscape"*

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# EPIPHYLLUMS

by Frank Granatowski

## HISTORY

Epiphyllums or orchid cactuses, as they are commonly called, are relatively new in the history of plant life. They may have been in existence only a few thousand years. The species were first discovered by early explorers in the jungles of Mexico and Central and South America.

The night-blooming species with their predominantly white and short-lived blooms have in the past century been successfully hybridized with some of their distant relatives by European and American botanists and hobbyists. Crossing the resulting hybrids with each other has produced a seemingly endless selection of incredibly beautiful flower forms and colors in both day and night bloomers. These blooms have a considerably longer life span than those from the species plants.

There are approximately 6000 registered epiphyllum hybrids at the present time, covering the color spectrum through pink, red, white, yellow, orange, purple, and green. In addition, there are many variations and combinations, such as bi-colored, tri-colored, and multi-colored.

## CULTURE AND CARE

One's first impression upon seeing a display of these breathtaking flowers is one of awe—awe at the exotic beauty and wonder of nature. Then one is seized with an impulse to obtain some plants or cuttings. At the same time, the possibility of success in growing such flowers may seem remote. Actually, a green thumb is not a requisite for raising these unique flowers. Plants are easily grown from cuttings, which under favorable conditions can be expected to produce flowers in two or three years.

Epiphyllums require minimal care, and are especially well suited to outdoor growing in San Diego's Mediterranean climate and environment. They require filtered sunlight, humidity, good air circulation, and protection from freezing temperatures. Watch for such pests as ants, aphids, mealybugs, and scale, and if necessary, spray with a suitable insecticide. Bait for snails regularly since snails thrive on the succulent growth and can quickly disfigure a plant.

## CUTTINGS

New epiphyllum plants are easily started from cuttings taken from 2- to 3-year old plants. From a cutting 8 to 10 inches in length, cut a chevron from

the base to the closest areole. Cuttings can be made from the tip, center, or base of the branch. Dip the base in a rooting compound and let stand for about 10 days to enable the cutting to form a callus. Next, plant the cutting about 2 inches deep in a good rooting medium, in a 4-inch container. A proper rooting medium consists of equal parts of garden sand or sponge rock and a coarse organic amendment. The medium can be moist, but DO NOT saturate with water. Withhold water for the first month or so until there is a root system to absorb the moisture. Initial growth should appear from the areoles or as spike risers, in about three to four months. The spike risers are especially desirable since they far outstrip the growth of the original stem or growth emanating from above-ground areoles.

## SOIL MIXTURES

When the initial stem or cutting has developed roots and new growth, it is time to transplant to a gallon pot, using a good light porous potting mixture. There are many good mixes available at the local nurseries; however, most epiphyllum growers tend to develop their own formulas to suit their own individual climate and environmental needs. Local growers have found, however, that it is best to avoid mixes that have an abundance of peat moss. An excellent potting mix is:

- 2 cu. ft. good potting mix
- 1 cu. ft. redwood compost
- 1 cu. ft. leaf mold
- 1 gal. horticultural charcoal
- 1 gal. white decorative rock (¼ to ½ inch)
- 1 gal. sponge rock
- 1 cup soil sulphur
- 1 cup super-phosphate
- ½ cup hoof & horn
- ½ cup potash
- ½ cup bleach dissolved in 3 gals. rain water

Mix the dry ingredients thoroughly, add water solution and mix again. Store in a garbage can or plastic bags for about 60 days. This formula will make enough mix to fill three dozen one gallon containers. The mix can also be used for most other indoor and outdoor potted plants such as ferns, bromeliads, and other epiphytic plants.

## POTTING

Since the plants tend to bloom better when slightly rootbound, a 2- to 3-gallon pot should take care of a mature plant indefinitely. Mature plants, because of their size, are best displayed either in hanging baskets or trellised.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Those interested in learning more about epiphyllums may attend the meetings of a local chapter



photo by Asael Arce

of the Epiphyllum Society of America. Visitors are welcome. The spring months are peak blooming periods for epiphyllums—watch for show dates that will provide an opportunity to view them at their dazzling best! □

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*Mr. Granatowski grows prize-winning epiphyllums. His plants are as handsome as the flowers are breathtaking.*

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# Flowers for Eating



by Rosalie Garcia

EAT FLOWERS? Are not some flower buds already common in our diets? What about broccoli and artichokes? And all the seeds, beans, and grains we eat, were not they once flowers?



In the "good old days" before supermarkets, cooks had to use their ingenuity and imagination to present tasteful and interesting foods. The green grocer had root vegetables, cabbage, and in season, some other green vegetables, but the enticing tidbits had to come from the home plot or wild areas. They still do. But we have forgotten—or maybe never known—how tasteful the actual flowers we have around us can be, or how beautiful they can be when used in cookery. A trip through even a small garden of quite ordinary plants will provide buds and flowers that will add exotic flavor and mouth-watering excitement to all kinds of dishes, especially salads and desserts.



The weed-like nasturtium heads the list. All parts of this plant are edible. Its blooms, stems, leaves, and seed pods have a sweet peppery flavor that enhances salads and sandwiches. Chopped blooms can be folded into omelets or sprinkled on soups and stews. Chopped stems and leaves added to cream cheese or butter make delicious spreads. Tender leaves and flowers blended with mayonnaise, a pinch of curry powder, a little lemon juice and honey make a tantalizing dressing for salads. To give a good tangy flavor to vinegar, add pickled nasturtium seeds and a clove of garlic.



Any flowers to be eaten are best picked early in the morning when they are newly opened or still in bud. The fragrant ones have the most flavor. One old favorite is the carnation or pink. Only the petals are edible—pull them from the stem, clip off the heels

(they're bitter), wash gently and dry on a paper towel. They are then ready to flavor vinegar, toss in a lettuce salad, mix with strawberries for jam, fold into a dessert omelet, or combine with cherries and brandy for a jubilee.



An orange, lime, or lemon tree blooming in the garden is not only an aromatic treat, but a few of its blossoms can doll up a fancy tea. Blooms frozen in juice in a ring mold for the punch bowl, or just floating in it, are in keeping with the occasion of a wedding reception, tea, or breakfast. A gelatin of beaten eggs and cream with fresh or candied citrus blooms makes an elegant dessert. Fresh or dried citrus blooms (5 or 6 to a cup) make a delicious tea. Jasmine flowers too, add subtle flavor to many of our China teas.



The sturdy marigold has lent its bitter, nutty-tasting petals to cookery as far back as cook books have been written and no doubt much earlier than that. The calendula or pot marigold was the classic herb used, but one can use the familiar marigold growing in the garden. Pull the petals from the stem, cut off the heels just as with carnations, and wash and drain them. They can be dried in a slow oven or dehydrator and stored for later use as flavor and coloring. They even make an acceptable substitute for expensive saffron.



Fresh marigold petals, used sparingly, can be added to tossed green salads, scrambled eggs, quiches, and stuffed eggs. They can be chopped and sprinkled over boiled onions or rice, or stirred into ratatouille, that old French dish of cold eggplant, zucchini, tomatoes, and onions which have been steamed and marinated in vinegar and oil. A few petals will give a distinctive flavor to a rich golden egg custard.



In spring when violets still carpet the woods in some areas and make their appearance in our gardens, they too can add flavor to food and drink (if one can bear to use the exquisite and fragrant blooms). The chemistry of the violet is such that its flavor and aroma are easily extracted. To make a jar of violet water that will keep in the refrigerator for weeks: fill a glass jar or crock with violets, pour over them boiling water (preferably distilled), and let stand overnight. Strain and use it to flavor drinks, gelatins, icings, and sauces.



Violet syrup is made by boiling a cup of violet water with two cups of sugar and three tablespoons of white corn syrup until it threads. Store at room temperature. A spoonful adds a most exotic flavor to a drink or sauce. A lovely cup of tea (full of vitamin A), made with violet leaves and blooms, can be a conversation piece at a reception or tea.



Although violets can be used in salads and sandwiches or sauces for fish and fowl, they lend themselves best to desserts. The favorite will always be candied flowers. One easy way to prepare them is this: beat the white of an egg until slightly frothy. Now hold the flower or petals with tweezers and, using a camel's hair brush, coat it with egg white, and dip it into fine granulated sugar. Place on waxed paper to dry. A second method uses sugar syrup. Boil one cup of sugar with one-half cup of water until it spins a thread. Cool to room temperature. With tweezers dip the flower in the syrup, shake off the excess, dip in fine granulated sugar, and dry on waxed paper. Ordinary sugar can be made finer by spinning it in a blender.



Even prettier than the violet, but not so full of flavor, is the blue flower of borage, an annual herb. Its bright blue is accented by a black star in the center. It candies as well as the violet. Fresh, it is decorative on open face sandwiches, especially those topped with cream cheese, or in punches or fruit salads.



Probably the oldest and most loved of all edible flowers is the rose. What are commonly known as "old roses," the very fragrant damask, gallica, and cabbage roses, are the most flavorful. Some of the modern reds and pinks also qualify.

Rose syrup made like violet syrup is a fragrant and different dessert sauce to pour over ice cream or cake, or even canned peaches or hot cakes. A refreshing tea is made from dried or fresh rosebuds or rose hips (seed pods). To make rose water, use the same method as for violets, but it is more difficult to extract the flavor. Use two quarts of rose petals to one quart of water. Gentle steeping in hot, but never boiling, water over a period of one hour will help. If you want to take the trouble, distilling with a tube encased in ice cubes leading from the steeping pot will yield more flavor. Or one can buy rose water at the drug store to keep on hand for flavoring puddings and custards.



Rose petal jam in stone crocks was a staple in many an old-time pantry. A modern version of this jam, with more flavor, can be whipped up in no time with the use of a blender. Take one cup of strawberries and two cups of rose petals, spin until liquefied; add three and one-half cups of sugar, one package of fruit pectin, one tablespoon of lemon juice, and bring to a boil for one minute. Pour into glass containers and freeze or keep in the refrigerator. Jams prepared by this method retain all their vitamin C and are sometimes known as "freeserves."



Rose hips have long been used medicinally in teas. It was known that they would help the ailing, even before vitamins were discovered, and today, extracts of rose hips are regularly used as a source of vitamin C. A jam can be made from the hips, but the tea is relished more, as it is more flavorful. Petals of roses were candied by our grandmothers and even their grandmothers. These delicacies can be made by same method used for violets.



In her book, *Flower Cookery*, Mrs. Leone Woodring Sminth lists many ways to use flowers. She gives recipes and directions. I have used some of her suggestions, such as squash blossoms fried in batter. Delicious! Other "vegetables" you might want to try are daylilies, clover, tulips, dandelions, lavender, hollyhock, and yarrow.

Flowery eating is not just for the gourmet, it adds interest and beauty to any ordinary dish. Try it!



# Spraying Plants

by George James



THE CONTROL OF PESTS in the garden is necessary if the plants, flowers, and fruits are to be free of blemishes and the plants are to grow their best. Many of the materials used to control pests are applied as sprays and if certain precautions are not observed the pests may not be controlled or the plants may be damaged. Liquid fertilizers and herbicides used to control weeds are often applied as sprays. Proper spray application is an important part of good gardening. It is hoped that the information contained in this article will help gardeners do a better job.

The presence of insects that feed on and at times infect the plants with diseases decrease the vigor of the plant, reduce its crop, and may shorten its life. Several kinds of fungi prey upon plants and damage them in similar ways so they too need to be controlled. Plants differ in their susceptibility to insects or fungus damage, some kinds being fairly free of such pests while other kinds are frequently infested. One approach to reducing the incidence of pests in the garden could be having a garden of plants that seldom harbor a pest. A gardener would have to be very flexible to have such a garden, being willing to use plants because they were not likely to have pests rather than for their suitability to the landscape plan being developed. Or, the gardener might have to eliminate certain especially appropriate or beautiful plants because of their susceptibility to pests.

## • WATCH FOR INFESTATION

Control of pests is easiest and most effective if measures are taken at the first sign of infestation. The gardener should watch continually for the first signs of the insects themselves, for damage to plants caused by their feeding, and for discolored or deformed plant parts (discolored or deformed plants parts may be caused also by fungi). Small plants that are badly infested can be removed or branches or twigs that are being damaged can be cut off and discarded in a plastic bag so that the pest does not move to other plants and start another infestation. A garden that is free of weeds and plant debris and where plants are not too crowded is likely to have fewer pest problems.

## • CONTROL BY WASHING

In some cases insect pests can be controlled by knocking them off with a strong stream of water. This may need to be repeated at intervals of several days to achieve control. The stream of water must be directed to all parts of the plant, not just those areas that are easy to reach. Washing should be done on a clear warm day so the plants will dry quickly, to prevent the growth of mildew, a fungus that attacks many plants. Plants with succulent stems may be damaged by washing.

## • INSECT PREDATORS

There are insect predators that help to keep insect pests under control. Materials used to kill the pests will also kill the predators. There are occasions when the use of a pesticide is necessary, but such applications should be limited to occasions when other methods fail. The killing of predators can be reduced by: (1) spraying early, at the first sign of any pests, before the predators are out in force; (2) spraying with an insecticide that is specific for a particular pest, as it will have little effect on other insects; (3) using a systemic material that penetrates the tissue of the plant. This controls only those insects that feed on the plant (predators usually do not feed on plants). Unfortunately, systemics do not control all insect pests, and of course systemic materials cannot be used on plants that are used as food by man or beast.



## • HOW TO SPRAY

To be effective the spray solution should be applied from several angles so each twig, leaf, and branch is completely covered. The spray stream must be directed to wet the underside of low leaves as well as the interior of the plant.

Enough spray should be applied so the solution drips from the plant. When the spray solution dries there is a film of control material all over the plant. Insect pests are controlled by wetting them with the spray solution or by their contacting the film after it is dry. Fungus infestations, in most cases, have their spread restricted by the film which kills the sprouting spores.

Insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides that are intended to be mixed with water and applied as a spray contain a material that will cause the spray solution to spread over the surface and to enter cracks in bark so a film of control material completely covers the plant. If a spray solution stands in drops on the leaves instead of spreading out, the addition of a material called a spreader will promote a more effective spray job. Garden supply stores sell a product made for this purpose that can be combined with spray materials safely. In an emergency, one can use a household detergent, from kitchen or laundry; start with one teaspoonful to a gallon and add more if the desired spreading is not achieved.

Pest control should not be applied when there is a possibility of hotter than usual weather, either at the time of application or within a day or two following. The possibility of damage to the plants is greater when the temperature is above normal.

When possible, spray when the weather is calm. It is easier to control the spray mist and there is less chance of spray falling on the gardener.

## • OIL SPRAYS

Oil spray is used to control scale and related insects. Observe the precautions listed on the label; some other sprays should not be combined with oil and many plants should not have an oil spray. Check the time and frequency of use.

## • DUST OR LIQUID

A question often asked is whether a dust is superior to a concentrate, liquid or powder, that is diluted in water and applied as a spray. Usually the dust contains the same control materials as the concentrate, the difference being the dust is diluted with a fine powder when purchased. Dusts leave a film on

the plant that is objectionable to some, while most spray materials leave a less conspicuous covering. The dusts available to the gardener are not as efficient as sprayers in applying the material. A dust that contains both an insect and a fungus control material is useful for spot treatments when an infestation is first seen and there is not time to mix spray and clean the sprayer afterwards. Also available are similar materials packaged in a pressure can.

## • IRRIGATE BEFORE SPRAYING

Plants that are well filled with water when pest control materials are applied are less likely to be damaged, so irrigation the day before is wise. The film left when the solution dries is easily washed off by overhead irrigation or by rain and the effective life of the material is shortened.

## • READ THE LABEL

The labels on insecticide packaging contain a wealth of information and should be read each time before the product is used—

(1) The rate of dilution is given. This amount is sufficient to kill or control the pest and should never be exceeded. Many times only half the prescribed amount will give adequate control.

(2) The insects and diseases the material will control are listed. The pests to be treated should be identified. If they are unfamiliar to the gardener, he should check with a nursery, agriculture department, or a natural history museum. If a material is used that is not effective against the pest in question, time, money, and labor are wasted and predators may be killed, but the pest continues unabated.

(3) The label may direct that the plants be resprayed at stated intervals. Most sprays do not destroy the eggs of insects, which will hatch later and the infestation will start again. The directions will call for another application at about the time the eggs hatch.

(4) There may be a list of plants on which the product should not be used because there is danger of severe damage, no matter how closely other rules are followed. The names of plants to be treated should be known, to be sure they are not on such a list.

(5) There are materials used to control pests that are poisonous to man and his pets, and these will be listed. There may be instructions that will permit the use of such a product on plants with edible parts and if these instructions are followed there will be no danger in eating the fruit or other parts, nor in feeding them to household animals.

(6) Some chemicals cannot be mixed with others because a chemical combination will be created that may damage the plants or one material will destroy the effectiveness of the other. These precautions too are listed.

(7) All spray materials should be used within a few hours after being mixed with water. If left overnight the chemicals will separate from the water and the solution will be of little use.

A quick review of the information on the label, before the material is used, will reduce the possibility of an error in its use and assure the best results. □

*Editor's note: Mr. James will discuss the different kinds of spray application devices available to the home gardener for use with insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and liquid fertilizers in a future issue.*

# Artistry in Flowers

by Sharon Seigan

A SCINTILLATING KALEIDOSCOPE of floral design, ranging from the traditional British grand mass to the lean contemporary line, stretched across the speakers' platform eloquently attesting to Julia Clements' artistry in flowers. These were the end results of Julia Clements' program, "Artistry in Flowers", presented following a champagne brunch at the Atlantis restaurant on January 29, 1979. The gala marked the first event of San Diego Floral Association's "Seven Decades of Service" celebration year. It was a most appropriate choice, for Miss Clements too, is in her seventh decade, serving to inspire women all over the world with the excitement of flowers and their wonderful potential for beautifying homes and lives. Floral members think that Alfred D. Robinson, a founder, first president, and first editor of *California Garden* magazine, would have been delighted with this reminder of close ties the association shares with his native Britain.

Pastels and particularly pinks predominated, creating an overall look of femininity and festivity. There was a dinner party centerpiece—a shimmering study of pink carnations and silvered leaves flowing downward from the center of an elaborate silver candelabra. A tray with fruit and flowers held apples and lemons pegged into oasis, sheltered beneath a triangle of red gladioli frozen in bud. (The sepals had been cut back to show their color.) Boldly modern was the carob branch thrust horizontally across a slate gray flared-mouth cylinder; yellow gladioli and several twists of cane provided vertical balance. In a similar vein, two callas joined a forked willow branch to stretch upward from a modern ceramic container weighted with magnolia foliage. And of course there was the graceful sweeping mass of garden flowers and greenery decorating a celadon green soapstone-like figurine.

Julia Clements' career began in 1947 when she attended a convention of garden club presidents in the United States to thank them for seeds sent to war devastated Britain. Accepting invitations to visit

the presidents in their homes, she traveled across the country learning about flowers, their cultivation and arrangement as practiced here. Having recently lost her husband, son, and home in the bombings during WWII, Julia Clements found a purpose for her life—to return to the war scarred cities of England and help other bereaved women find themselves with flowers. For, as she so vividly recalled, their lives were bleak, food and clothing were rationed, and the other amenities were all in short supply. But they did have flowers. Everywhere there were flowers. And flowers became the medium for Julia Clements' mission. She wrote newsletters to groups and organized flower clubs, so that today there are 1000 such clubs in England with a membership of 150,000. It was for this pioneering work that in 1974 she received the Victoria Medal of Honor, highest award bestowed by the Royal Horticultural Society of which she is both a judge and a fellow. This award, a golden cross, first given by Queen Victoria, symbolizes outstanding service in the field of horticulture. Sixty-three living recipients hold this medal, commemorating the years of Victoria's reign. A new medal can be awarded only upon the death of a prior owner. Only three women share this honor, the other medalists being the Queen Mother and Frances Perry, a noted horticulturalist.

Other honors include the naming of three roses for her: 'Julia,' 'Julia Clements' and 'Lady Seton.' (Miss Clements is Lady Seton in private life, the widow of Sir Alexander Seton the tenth Baronet of Abercorn.)

Miss Clements remains a missionary in the realm of flowers. She teaches in hospitals, churches, and prisons, bringing a new awareness of nature into lives marked by tragedy, suffering, and despair—or just plain indifference. She has taught workshops all over the world, communicating her uplifting message in the language of flowers.

Flowers, explained Miss Clements at the conclusion of her program, "have a greater role to play in this turbulent world than we are already



photo by William T. Bode

conscious of, for they set us humans such a fine example. We do not stop often enough to stand and stare at them and realize from where they come. When we do, we can realize that some are tall and some are short, some are bold and some are shy, and they come in all varieties and colors, just like people.

Yet they do not fight for supremacy and they do not seem to show any jealousy. They just seem to grow and give love and beauty to all who see them, and that is the message I would like to leave with you today. Whether you meet friend or foe, just think of flowers and spread a little love and good will." □



# Anthuriums

by Dr. Donald P. Watson

UNLIKE MOST commercial flowers, the anthurium has never been given a popular name. Consequently, the generic name *Anthurium* of the common species *andreaeanum* prevails. It is merely one of over 500 species from tropical America. (Fig. 1)

They are primarily herbaceous and climbing perennials, some quite rare. The forerunner of the commercial cultivars was taken to Hawaii from London by S.M. Damon in 1889. Through breeding and cultural improvements, mostly at the University of Hawaii, there are now many high quality cultivars, the basis for a large commercial industry that exports cut flowers and plants all over the world.

## • ANTHURIUM NOT A FLOWER

It is not accurate to call the anthurium a flower. The plant consists of several leaves in a cluster 1 to 4 feet high, rising from an underground stem. From a leaf axil a long-stemmed flower stalk arises. It consists of a cylindrical pencil-like spike (spadix) covered with many small perfect flowers at the base of which is a colorful and conspicuous heart-shaped, wing-like bract (spathe). While this whole flower stalk is popularly called a flower, it is in reality a stem, a spathe, and a spadix—often with many unopened tiny flowers.

Careful examination of a spadix at different stages of development reveals a young spadix with undeveloped flower parts, a spadix with female flowers, spadix with pollen visible on male parts and a spadix developing seeds. (Fig. 2)

## • CARE OF CUT FLOWERS

Care of anthuriums after shipment is a simple three-step operation. First, when flowers arrive, cut ½ inch off the base of each stem and immerse the whole thing (stem, spathe, and spadix) in luke warm water for two hours. Second, repeat the first step every five days using fresh water. Third, do not refrigerate.

Experimental work has shown that water evaporates rapidly from the flowers in the spadix. In fact, stalks stored in polyethylene enclosures lose considerably less weight than those stored in the open with their stems in water. Therefore, shelf life of the cut flower stalks can be increased by soaking the whole

stalk as recommended above. This procedure will increase turgidity and fresh weight as well as improve keeping quality.

## • SOME CULTIVARS

While at first pink and the other pastel colored anthuriums were most popular, the red bracts rapidly increased in popularity. Today a wide range of colors and forms exist. Some of the most common types are:

Fig. 1 +





Fig. 2 +

#### Red

'Ozaki'—light red spathe with large overlapping lobes subtends a reddish-purple spadix.

'Kaumana'—dark red, open spathe subtends a reclining white spadix.

'Kozihara'—dark red spathe with overlapping lobes subtends a reclining white spadix.

#### Orange

'Nitta'—orange, broad overlapping spathe subtends a white reclining spadix.

'Sunburst'—small, broad, bright orange spathe subtends a short spadix.

#### White

'Uniwai'—small white spathe with overlapping lobes subtends a short yellow spadix.

'De Weese'—small open spathe subtends a short reclining yellow spadix.

#### Pink

'Abe'—medium bright pink spathe subtends a white reclining spadix.

'Marian Seefurth'—large, broad, rich rose-pink spathe subtends a greenish-yellow drooping spadix when young, but white and upright when mature.

#### Novelties

'Obake'—extremely variable in size and shape, but usually contains some chlorophyll in the spathes. Some are almost all green, some white and green, others red, pink, orange and green combinations.

'Red Elf'—two small red spathes produced on one stem with a single red spadix. (Fig. 3)

'Anuenue'—green color develops on a coral base from the periphery of very large spathes subtending short reclining spadix which changes color from yellow to white as it matures.

'Brown'—unusual brown spathe with green spadix.

'Blush'—white spathe with red veins that diffuse out from dark red spadix.

#### • LIMITED CULTURE

Very few anthuriums are grown locally as cut flowers. Some are grown in private conservatories or as special displays in public tropical greenhouses.

Small plants may be imported or fresh seeds may be germinated in finely shredded peat-moss under 75 percent shade. The seeds germinate immediately and within five months may be transplanted. The seedlings should flower within three years.

Anthurium plants are grown in a high organic, well aerated medium with good water retention capability yet good drainage. For permanent spacing, 1½ feet should be allowed between plants. Ideal light intensity is about 75 percent full sunlight. Ideal temperature is 65° F. at night and 80° F. during the day. Frequent applications of a low concentration of liquid balanced fertilizer such as 5-10-10 are essential.

Large numbers of anthuriums are grown in Hawaii. Exports of cut flowers from the West Indies, Mauritius, Central and South America, and some other tropical locations are increasing. Most consumers use anthuriums only as cut flowers. They are prized for their great variety in color and form, and because they last longer than many other flowers. □

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Dr. Donald P. Watson, Prof. Emeritus  
Department of Horticulture  
University of Hawaii

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Fig. 3 +





# Predators in the garden

by David Faulkner

(Times of magnification given after family name.)

- *Coccinellidae*, ladybird beetles or ladybugs (4X)



Adults are quite variable in color, but often times are red with black or white markings. The adults are oval in shape with almost clubbed antennae.

Both adults and larvae feed mostly on aphid and scale insects.

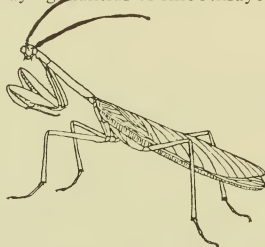
- *Ichneumonidae*, ichneumonid fly (wasp) (3X)



Many are slender wasps, often with the body being orange in color with clear wings. The female wasp may also have an ovipositor, or egg laying device, as long or longer than the body length of the insect extending from the end of the abdomen.

The larvae are parasitic on any number of insect pests, such as caterpillars, other wasp grubs, and the larval stages of beetles, sawflies, and true flies. Considered one of the most beneficial groups of insects.

- *Mantidae*, praying mantids or smoothsayers



These elongate insects with the front legs modified for grasping and holding prey vary in color from brown to green.

A general feeder on many different types of pest and non-pest insects.

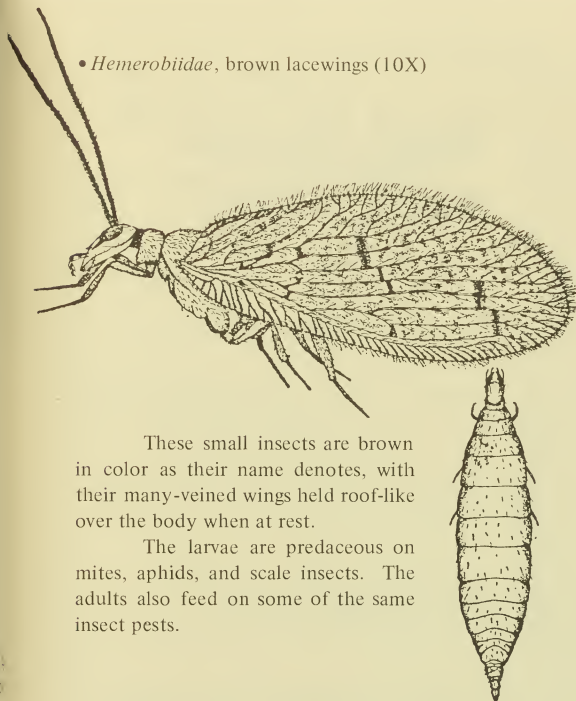
- *Asilidae*, robber fly or assassin fly (4X)



The adults are quite variable in shape, but many are alongate and gray in color, although some are yellow and resemble bumblebees in form. As with all true flies they have one pair of wings.

The adults are predaceous on small and large insects which they catch while in flight. They are considered beneficial as a group, but some are known to prefer honeybees as food.

• *Hemerobiidae*, brown lacewings (10X)



These small insects are brown in color as their name denotes, with their many-veined wings held roof-like over the body when at rest.

The larvae are predaceous on mites, aphids, and scale insects. The adults also feed on some of the same insect pests.

• *Tachinidae*, tachina fly (4X)



They are often shining black flies with a dense covering of bristles. These flies tend to be very robust in shape and are quite variable in size.

The larvae are parasitic on many species of destructive insect pests, including woolly bear caterpillars, squash bugs, mud-dauber wasps, and many others. The adult flies are often found around flowers.

• *Syrphidae*, flower fly, sweat fly, hover fly, or drone fly (4X)



These small to medium sized flies often striped with yellow. The larvae are slug-like with the head end being pointed.

Many of the larvae are predators on aphids and scale insects. The adults frequent flowers.

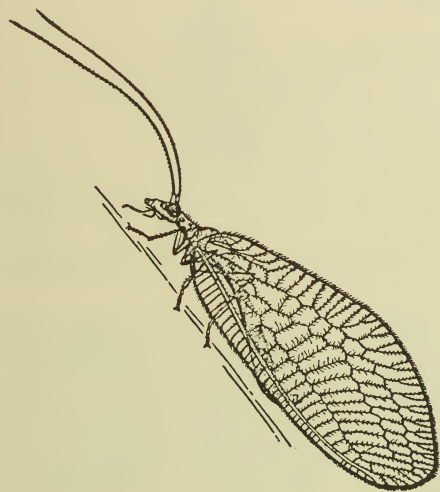
• *Bombyliidae*, bee fly (4X)



The adults are small to large in size and are robust with a very dense layer of hairs. They frequent flowers and resemble humming birds in flight.

The adults feed on nectar while the larval stage is predaceous or parasitic on the larvae of beetles, grasshoppers, wasps, and bees.

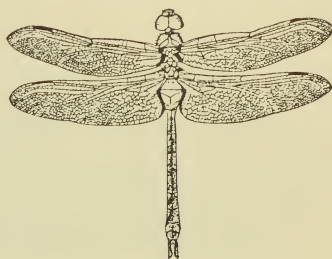
- *Chrysopidea*, green lacewings, aphid lions or golden eyes (10X)



The larvae tend to be flat with elongate bodies tapering at both ends. They also possess a pair of sickle-like jaws. The adults are often green in color with very frail looking green wings again held roof-like over the body when at rest. Eggs are on stalks.

The larval stage can consume between 200 and 400 aphids before reaching the adult stage. They also will eat mites, thrips, leafhoppers, and many other insects. The adults do not seem to feed.

- *Dragonfly* (adult), darners



Medium to large insects in size, these very fast fliers have two pair of usually clear, many veined wings.

They capture on the wing and devour gnats, mosquitoes, and many other species of small insects.

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*David Faulkner is entomologist for the Natural History Museum, San Diego, California.*

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Guess I'd better read *California Garden*!

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## OF TUSSIE MUSSIES AGAIN

*by Josephine Gray*



FIVE OR SIX YEARS AGO if you had said that you were going to make a tussie mussie, you would have been rewarded by a blank stare. Now, with the resurgence of interest in herbs, garden magazines are publishing many articles about these fragrant tight little bouquets. They would remind you that these bouquets had their origin in medieval England when a little clutch of bitter herbs, rue or wormwood was carried to ward off the evil odors of filthy streets and vile court rooms. The judge always had a few sprigs of rue on his desk—and does to this day.

Now it has become the gay, bright little nosegay colorful with fragrant tiny flowers and spicy with herbs which is useful and desirable for so many occasions—hospital visits, a gesture to your luncheon hostess, or a gift of part of yourself to a friend. It may have a soft collar of lamb's ears, a prickly ruff of santolina, or the bright green velvet leaves of peppermint geranium may wrap it round.

Whatever the outside, (it may even be a lace paper doily), the inside must be composed of small and fragrant flowers among the herbs. Some flower arrangers I know like to grow their own flowers for in

that way they are assured of having unusual ones which a florist might not carry. Wouldn't it be interesting to have a tussie-mussie garden with only those things in it that would be used in the little bouquets? You could be sure then of having something all year round; from June to September you would always find a few spikes of coral bells; in the autumn you would find Michaelmas daisies in soft blues and reds. Though these are technically perennial asters they look like miniature single daisies with a bright gold center and many of them bloom the first year. Another beautiful daisy-like plant with a magnificent range of autumn color is the Korean chrysanthemum, in the seed catalogue specifically called 'Korean Jewel.' I find these easier to grow than Michaelmas daisies. They blossom the first year from seed and grow into sturdy plants that live and bloom for many years.

So far we have much color, but little scent. Immediately my mind flies to the dear little old fashioned clove pink which is almost a must for a tussie mussie. In the quest for improvement and originality the breeders have come up with charming varieties—laced, fringed, doubled, and unusually marked, but have completely succeeded in eliminating fragrance. That is what pinks are all about! From medieval times till now they have been grown and loved for their spicy clove scent. The ladies-in-waiting at Hampton Court picked them from the wide flower borders as they promenaded on warm afternoons: they tucked them into bodices and called them sops-in-wine. Such fragrant reminders should not be lost, and fortunately aren't. In Burpee's catalogue I find one variety described as "fragrant fringed bloom..... old fashioned English Hardy Pink." That should be enough to spark enthusiasm.



Another fragrance which has almost been lost in the "bigger is better" effort is mignonette. When you shop for this nostalgic little plant which was so dear to the hearts of our grandmothers, look for the common sweet-scented variety—avoid the giant flowered. It is a modest little spike growing much like sweet alyssum, though fuller and thicker and picked out with a tiny bit of color which I can't describe—is it copper, yellow, coral?

If you do not already have it in your herb garden, be sure to grow some of the purple basil, 'Dark Opal.' It is not only fine for the little bouquets, but makes beautiful as well as fine-tasting vinegar.

Any of the seven or eight species of lavender are worth growing; *Lavandula dentata* and *L. pubescens* are in almost constant bloom. Though the spike is their form of bloom they are each so different that it is worthwhile having as many as you have room for. The foliage differs too, the soft ferny leaves of *L. pubescens* is in contrast to the stiff foliage of the English lavender with which we are more familiar. Another desirable lavender is *L. stoechas* or Spanish lavender. When I first saw it in bloom I was surprised to see its neatly shaped body completely covered with soft spikes of violet. The stems are not so long as in other varieties and they come to bloom only at the very top.

I am greedy as I make out my seed list; how can I resist those look-alikes in miniature? *Nemesia* is like tiny pastel orchids, and *linaria*, little snapdragons. Sometimes *linaria* is called toad-flax: think about that for a minute and then wonder "why" with me! Then there is *mimulus* which many years ago used to grow wild along little stream banks in Bel Air, California. We called the soft mustard-colored blossoms "Sticky Monkey." Now the little monkey faces are splotched and marked like clowns. Forget-me-nots and Johnny-jump-ups must come in here too, and English daisies with their clean washed faces like little children going to Sunday school.

There must always be white to light up the bouquet. I don't care for baby's breath which is apt to be overpowering and make the tussie mussie look like one of those pudding arrangements which some florists are prone to produce. On Queen Anne's lace the lower stem will sometimes produce a spur of tiny blossoms which are perfect. Also, there will be herbs which have white blossoms—savory, marjoram, and oregano and at least one of the thymes.



The list of lovely things is endless. In your regular border you will find snippets of things like larkspur in pink or several heavenly shades of blue, the little buds of *scabiosa* which look like intricately carved buttons of many colors, and in your herb garden there will be dill and perhaps *salvias* of several varieties. I have gone beyond the bounds of a little tussie mussie plot, but on a cold rainy afternoon the mind and heart leap to a sunny morning with cocoanut geranium under foot and marjoram and thyme demanding attention on either side.

Sow something you have never grown before, and surprise yourself! □

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Drawings by Beverly Kulot

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# Bird's Nest Thistle

by Helen Chamlee

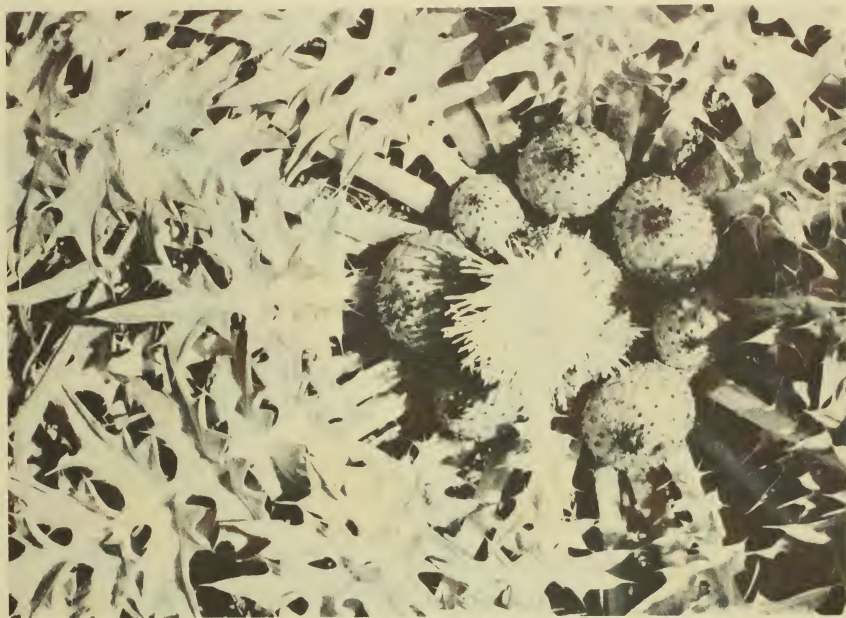


photo by BILL GUNTHER

A THISTLE PLANT is big, tall and fiercely spiny, holding its white, yellow, pink, or blue flower heads two, three, or six feet high. That's our generalized idea of the thistle, and it fits most of them.

But there's one kind of thistle that forgot to grow a stem so it became a bird's nest.

Do you recall those empty nests that you brought home and treasured for a time when you were nine years old? You placed them carefully on a shelf where they sat, gradually spreading and disintegrating, until mother quietly arranged their disappearance.

The bird's nest thistle looks like a dissolving nest. Its ripened seeds heads are so close to the ground that cooperative winds never take all the parachute-equipped seeds away. Those remaining spread into dusty wads that could easily be mistaken for a nest that has gone through a year of rain and snow.

In its young stage, as shown, this thistle resembles a nest full of eggs—green, but surely eggs. The egg-shaped buds are green with purple markings, and tightly packed in the “nest.” The plant pictured has a sizeable clutch of about a dozen. The central bud opens first, those in the outer circle open in turn and their shaggy pinkish flower heads spread over the rosette of spiny leaves.

The bird's nest thistle, *Cirsium tioganum*, is one of the least showy of the large-headed ones, the common artichoke being the largest and showiest with its bright blue-purple flower heads.

You could expect to come upon bird's nest thistles in mountain meadows above 3000 feet in Cuyamaca and Palomar in southern California, the Sierra Nevada, New Mexico, or Colorado. Most plants are stemless, though some will be less nestlike, with stems 5 or 6 inches high. □

## Flowers and Art

A massive figure, a replica of pre-Columbian art, is featured in this arrangement. The fresh and dried plant materials are chosen for their earth colors that coordinate with the art object.

Deepest colors are in the round dark-brown base and cup holder. Colors lighten upward with the cinnamon brown of the fresh plant material *Kalanchoe orgyalis*, sometimes called cinnamon bear.

The inch plant, *Homalocladium platycladum*, material, is burnished rust.

Twin spikes of dried mullein, beige and black, complete the composition.

This arrangement remained attractive for one month without water.

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Arrangements by Virginia Innis

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Photos by Betty Mackintosh

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Mrs. Innis is a National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., accredited judge and certified show school instructor.

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## Timeless Beauty

An antique brass basket is filled with damp oasis in which yellow-green *Sedum palmeri* (*S. compressum*) blooms are arranged.

Interest is achieved by placing the smooth yellow-green foliage of the sedum along the handle of the basket toward the center of the arrangement.

By keeping the oasis moist, the blooms lasted for a month.





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# THE NEW WATERFALLS AT QUAIL GARDENS

by Bill Gunther

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*This photograph, of the upper portion of the new Mildred Macpherson Waterfalls at Quail Gardens, shows clearly how well the design and the landscaping have been coordinated to achieve a rugged natural appearance.*

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IN THE PAST, Quail Botanic Gardens, in Encinitas, was just another of the many horticultural and garden attractions which abound in San Diego County. However, as of last March 11, 1979, it suddenly soared up to the status of being one of the top attractions in that category.

The special significance of March 11 is that on that date Quail Gardens' spectacular new Mildred Macpherson Waterfalls—together with the extensive new landscape plantings surrounding it—were finished and dedicated.

The dedication ceremony—attended by many officials including Paul Eckert, County Supervisor, and a big overflow crowd of spectators—was truly impressive. But even more impressive are the new waterfalls themselves. Viewed either from above, or below, or from the specially-built viewing platform located midway between, the whole setting is strikingly

beautiful. Most commendable is that both the waterfalls (designed by Dennis Torzeski) and the surrounding landscaping (designed by Gilbert Voss) are perfectly coordinated with a theme of rustic naturalness. The huge rocks against which the flowing stream churns itself into foam, the fallen trees which sprawl over the rushing water, the colorful bromeliads which grow lushly from the fallen trees, and the tropical vegetation on the adjacent slopes all appear to have been built by nature over the centuries, but actually it all was built by man in a matter of weeks.

All these words, even with a photograph to illustrate them, cannot begin to substitute for an actual on-the-scene viewing of the new Mildred Macpherson Waterfalls.

Quail Gardens is just a few miles north of San Diego; it is open every day, and admission is free. Get yourself there soon! □

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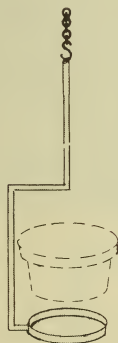


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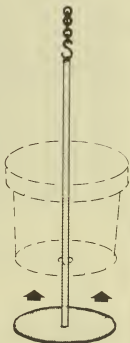
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## BEGONIAS Margaret Lee

- ✓ to continue repotting.
- ✓ to take cuttings for extra plants.
- ✓ to clean plants of all dead leaves, old blooms, etc.
- ✓ to trim back and restake some cane varieties where needed.
- ✓ to prune for shaping and encourage side-growth; do this gradually, about 1/3 of the plant, to avoid shock.
- ✓ to feed plants with a well balanced all-purpose fertilizer, use ¼ strength once a week.
- ✓ to spray for insects, if necessary, using malathion-base spray.
- ✓ to protect from too much sun and drying winds.
- ✓ to keep damp, but NOT wet.

compiled by Penny Bunker

## CAMELLIAS Les Baskerville

- ✓ to feed plants with fish or acid fertilizer.
- ✓ to watch for loopers; if found, spray with malathion.
- ✓ to mulch plants with 1 inch thickness of redwood compost.
- ✓ to maintain a regular watering schedule. Do not allow plants to completely dry out.
- ✓ to be sure to water well the day before feeding—NEVER fertilize a dry plant.

## BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

- ✓ to develop a watering schedule—avoid overwatering on overcast days, especially the pines.
- ✓ to pinch back cypress and juniper for dense growth, using tweezers or fingers to pluck off the tips at the joint. Do not use scissors; the ends will turn brown.
- ✓ to shape deciduous trees by pruning.
- ✓ to defoliate deciduous trees in June. These may be transplanted afterwards.
- ✓ to check wires during the growing season.
- ✓ to fertilize all trees—using an organic fertilizer. Do not overfertilize the pine trees.
- ✓ to check for insects; use a mild insecticide, if necessary.
- ✓ to control any mildew that might appear; use sulphur dust or a liquid spray.

## DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

- ✓ to draw soil around plants as they grow.
- ✓ to plant smaller varieties and give regular care to growing plants.
- ✓ to feed with a low nitrogen fertilizer, either dry or liquid.
- ✓ to guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids.
- ✓ to pinch out center when two or three sets of leaves form.
- ✓ to water when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and more often.

## BROMELIADS Dr. Norman Lurie

- ✓ to check plants and remove offsets. These may be used to increase supply of plants.
- ✓ to protect from snails and slugs; place bait around the plants, not in the cups.
- ✓ to feed with a well balanced fertilizer.
- ✓ to keep cups clean and filled with clean water.
- ✓ to maintain humidity around plant areas.
- ✓ to protect foliage from getting sunburned.

## EPIPHYLLUMS Mary & Warren Kelly

- ✓ to renew snail bait and watch for pests.
- ✓ to prune plants to shape by taking cuttings after flowering.
- ✓ to remove wilted flowers by cutting about ¼ inch from stem, unless you desire seed to form.
- ✓ to take care in watering. Do not allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but not wet.
- ✓ to stake long spindly growth.
- ✓ to feed your plants after blooming, using a balanced fertilizer.

## FERNS Ray Sodomka

- ✓ to plant spore.
- ✓ to spray for aphids and scale, if necessary.
- ✓ to fertilize with a high-nitrogen fertilizer, using liquid or pellets twice a month.
- ✓ to remove dead fronds.
- ✓ to water thoroughly—maintain humidity by wetting surrounding areas.

## CACTUS & SUCCULENTS Verna Pasek

- ✓ to water more frequently, depending on the weather. Be careful not to splash on delicate blooms.
- ✓ to repot small plants; larger ones only need it every two or three years.
- ✓ to behead echeverias and other leggy succulents to re-root and make into neat short-stemmed plants. Be sure to dry cuttings for a few days before repotting.
- ✓ to start new plants by removing offsets on old stems. (Can be twisted off and propagated.)
- ✓ to keep a sharp lookout for pests.
- ✓ to clean up all storage areas and greenhouses. Be sure to remove and dry out loose boards or stones.
- ✓ to feed with balanced fertilizer to promote flowering.

## FUCHSIAS Bill Selby

- ✓ to be alert for insects, aphids, whitefly, or worms; keep plants clean.
- ✓ to be sure to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.
- ✓ to keep plants damp, but NOT wet.
- ✓ to watch for dry plants on hot or windy days. DO NOT allow plants to dry out.
- ✓ to continue fertilizing; use 5-10-10 for lush growth and an abundance of large blooms.
- ✓ to continue pinching for shape and picking off all berries, spent blooms, and dropped leaves.

## GERANIUMS Carol Roller

- ✓ to continue feeding plants, using a low nitrogen fertilizer to encourage flowering.
- ✓ to water when plants are somewhat dry, keeping foliage as dry as possible.
- ✓ to remove faded flowers and old discolored leaves.
- ✓ to continue a pest control program for sucking and chewing insects, snails, and slugs, using products according to the manufacturers' directions.
- ✓ to continue to rotate pots on a regular basis to produce well-shaped plants.
- ✓ to enjoy geraniums at the height of their season.

## HERMEROCALLIS Sanford Roberts

- ✓ to thoroughly clean up clumps. Remove dead foliage and combat aphids that are attracted to the lush new growth. (I use one teaspoon cygon per gallon of water.)
- ✓ to dig and divide clumps that have been growing in the same spot more than three years. **DO NOT** cut tuberous roots back. Separate to 2 to 4 fans when replanting. Spread roots much like planting a rose, and cover with not more than 2 inches of soil.
- ✓ to fertilize established clumps with a 5-10-10 formula, manure, or well decomposed compost.
- ✓ to plant new cultivars. Order from catalogs in your local area.

May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30



## IRIS Valera Chenoweth

- ✓ to prepare beds for planting and transplanting tall-bearded after blooming. Work in humus, soil sulphur, and some well decomposed manure before transplanting.
- ✓ to keep watering while still blooming.
- ✓ to feed spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.
- ✓ to feed Siberians after bloom with a balanced fertilizer to form bloom for next year.
- ✓ to feed Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.
- ✓ to feed Japanese iris with camellia food in the water in which they are grown.
- ✓ to watch for aphids; may use a systemic insecticide.
- ✓ to allow the cut surfaces of a tall-bearded rhizome to dry and be exposed to sunlight before replanting, or give a light dusting of soil sulphur on the wounds. May place in vitamin B solution for awhile before planting.

## ORCHIDS Charles Fouquette

- ✓ to start high-nitrogen feeding of cymbidiums and a complete fertilizer on phals and cattleyas.
- ✓ to continue heavy watering of cymbidiums.
- ✓ to spray and mist on hot dry days.
- ✓ to control snails—use metaldehyde or other poison.
- ✓ to maintain pest control against red spider, mealybugs, and scale; can use malathion or other non-oily spray.
- ✓ to mist seedlings in mornings and early afternoon so they will be dry before nightfall.
- ✓ to keep exterior planting media moist.
- ✓ to check glasshouses for areas getting too much sun.
- ✓ to check and prepare to paint or erect shade cloth in areas of patios or hothouses with too much light.

## ROSES Dr. Robert Linck

- ✓ to cut back spent blooms to promote a second bloom cycle.
- ✓ to fertilize with a balanced plant food.
- ✓ to water deeply as days become warmer.
- ✓ to mulch the roses with a ground cover to keep cool.
- ✓ to continue preventative spraying for mildew control. Can use parnon, using ¼ teaspoon per gallon of water, or use acti-Dione PM to remove mildew.
- ✓ to check for rose slugs and/or worms; if present can spray with malathion or sevin.

## VEGETABLES George James

- ✓ to plant nearly all kinds of vegetables, either seed or plants, except cabbage and its relatives (they do better when the weather is cool).
- ✓ to fertilize every three or four weeks, except: Corn—feed when 8 inches tall and again when 18 inches. Lettuce—feed once when about half grown. Tomatoes—feed once a month after fruit starts to set.
- ✓ to read more about vegetables below.

The weather during May and June is usually overcast and cool, not warm enough for good growth of many vegetables, but the root crops—beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, and similar vegetables will grow well. Snap beans, summer squash, corn, and cucumbers can be grown from seed.

Set out small plants of celery, eggplant, pepper, onions, and tomatoes with expectations of good growth.

Cantaloupes, lima beans, pumpkins, watermelons, and winter squash will do better later in the year when the weather is warmer.

Lettuce and spinach will be satisfactory in partial shade. During the hot months, endive can be grown instead of lettuce, and New Zealand spinach instead of the conventional kind.

Irrigation will be needed more frequently as the weather becomes warmer. Water applied by drip irrigators, flooding, or in furrows is less likely to cause foliage disease than by sprinkling.

Fertilization is necessary to grow good quality of vegetables. Tomato, or tomato and vegetable fertilizer is well balanced and promotes good growth. Soils that are poor or those filled with roots of trees and shrubs, which rob small plants of nutrients, need to be fed more frequently. It is safer to apply fertilizer frequently than to increase the amount applied at one time. Apply to a moist soil and then water so the fertilizer is distributed through the soil, reducing the danger of root damage.

Enjoy the flavor of garden grown vegetables and the satisfaction of growing them.



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Have turned to blossoms where they fell: and sown the earth with flowers.*

*—Hood*